

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Emergency Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

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## September is National Preparedness Month

(Forest Hill, MD) - - The Harford County Department of Emergency Services is joining thousands of other departments and government entities throughout the country in recognizing September as the "[National Preparedness Month](#)". This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September's designation as "[National Preparedness Month](#)", a month-long effort sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encouraging households, business, and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

In times of emergencies, people tend to pull together to support one another. However, before emergencies occur, including hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters, families, businesses, and communities should take time to prepare for such events. [National Preparedness Month](#) is an opportunity for everyone to come together to assess risks, develop and practice plans and prepare for emergencies.

Emergencies of various types, including hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wild land fires, cyber and terrorist attacks can strike at any time. In an effort to help first responders and public safety officials effectively mitigate such events, the public needs to help by being prepared for such events.

During [National Preparedness Month](#), the Department of Emergency Services encourages the community to take the following actions:

- **Get a Kit:** Ensure you, your family and loved ones can survive for several days without access to major utilities. An Emergency Kit should include non-perishable foods, medicines, baby formula if appropriate and other special needs items to last at least three days.
- **Make a Plan:** Do you know what to do, where to go, and how to communicate with other family members if you must evacuate? Take time to develop a plan to assist family members should an emergency situation requiring evacuation occur.

( more )

- **Be Informed:** Stay informed of weather conditions and warnings of natural disasters. Know what to do, where to go and how to communicate during natural or made-made disasters.
- **Get Involved:** Help businesses, schools and others to be better prepared for emergency situations.

“Preparing for an emergency is a shared responsibility that requires everyone’s support and participation,” said County Executive David R. Craig. “Our first responders, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel and other public safety partners do a great job in Harford County, but they need the help of the entire community in being adequately prepared for severe weather events and other emergencies,” County Executive Craig remarked.

Also commenting on emergency preparedness, Director Russell J. Strickland of the Department of Emergency Services said, “Emergency preparedness takes individuals, families, businesses, schools, non-profits and others to get involved and support one another not just during emergencies, but prior to and during recovery as well”. “A resilient community is a partnership between public safety officials and the public to help plan for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic events,” Strickland added.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Department of Emergency Services at [www.harforpublicsafety.org](http://www.harforpublicsafety.org) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

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*The Mission of the Department of Emergency Services is provide quality emergency and support services to address the public safety needs of citizens, businesses and emergency responders in Harford County. Our services will be delivered in a manner that is professional and reflects our commitment to excellence.*